I support media diversity in order to maintain a true democracy
I am writing to you about Docket No. 02-277, re: the FCC's broadcast
mediaownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and
localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC must
retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These
rules serve the public interest by allowing the public to hear a number of
diverse reports and insights about local, national and international
issues by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the
broadcast industry.

The studies commissioned by the FCC don't correctly show negative affects
media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While
there may indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum
of views presented have become more limited.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is
part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed
that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the
FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed
discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest is best be served by preserving media ownership rules
in question in this proceeding.

In addition to the official hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA, I
strongly urge the FCC to hold additional hearings elsewhere around the
nation to solicit the widest possible participation from the public which
will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I
think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view
of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a
social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it
is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues
more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in
the process.

Thank you,

M. Caperton Tissot van Patot